

HOUSE RESOLUTION 98

By Sexton C

A RESOLUTION to commend public awareness efforts relative to the importance of vaccinations for children and adults against meningococcal disease.

WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is any infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*; and

WHEREAS, although one in ten people is a carrier for this bacteria with no signs or symptoms of disease, sometimes *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria can cause illness; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, there are approximately 800 to 1,500 cases of meningococcal disease that occur each year; and

WHEREAS, ten to fifteen infected individuals out of 100 will die even when treated, while about ten to twenty out of every 100 people who survive will suffer from serious morbidity, including loss of limbs and impacts to the nervous system; and

WHEREAS, infants under one year of age, as well as young adults between the ages of sixteen and twenty-three, are among those most commonly impacted by this disease; and

WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is spread from person to person via the exchange of bacteria through respiratory and throat secretion during close or lengthy contact; and

WHEREAS, community settings in which large groups of people gather, like college campuses, can increase the risk of the spread of meningococcal disease; and

WHEREAS, there are different strains or serogroups of *Neisseria meningitidis*, with serogroups B, C, and Y accounting for most meningococcal diseases in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there have been several recent outbreaks of serogroup B meningococcal disease on college campuses, with some cases resulting in death; and

WHEREAS, there are vaccines that help provide protection against all three serogroups (B, C, and Y) commonly seen in the United States; and

WHEREAS, vaccination for serogroups A, C, W, and Y is routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young adults who are sixteen through twenty-three years of age against serogroup B meningococcal disease should be made at the individual level with healthcare providers; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that students, parents, educators, and healthcare providers understand the dangers of meningitis B and are aware that a vaccine is available to prevent the disease resulting from this serogroup; and

WHEREAS, the recent incidence of meningococcal disease has served as a reminder of the critical role vaccinations play in helping to prevent this devastating illness; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commend the public awareness efforts of those public health organizations and the schools, colleges, and universities of Tennessee that provide information to all students and their parents about meningococcal disease and the importance of vaccinations for children and adults.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.